

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A sputtering target that is a perovskite oxide represented by the chemical formula of  $Ra_{1-x}A_xBO_{3-\delta}$ , wherein Ra represents a rare earth element consisting of Y, Sc and lanthanoid; A represents Ca, Mg, Ba or Sr; B represents Mn; and  $0 < x \leq 0.5$ , and wherein the target has a relative density of 95% or more, an average crystal grain size of  $100\mu m$  or less, a resistivity of  $10\Omega cm$  or less, and a purity of 3N or more.

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (new): A sputtering target according to claim 1, wherein A represents Mg.

Claim 5 (new): A sputtering target according to claim 1, wherein A represents Ba.

Claim 6 (new): A sputtering target according to claim 1, wherein Ra represents Sc.

Claim 7 (new): A sputtering target according to claim 1, wherein Ra represents Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, or Dy.